

Most Common 8 Languages Spoken in the World

With 124 million Spanish speakers, Mexico has the largest Spanish-speaking population in the world.

Discussion:

What other countries are Spanish speaking? What other languages in the world are most commonly spoken? What are common languages? In which countries are they spoken? Brainstorm and discuss.

Activity:

Below is a list of the eight most commonly spoken languages in our world and how to greet people using that language. If we can say, “hello” in these eight languages, we can greet over half the people in the entire world! (Source: *If the World Were a Village*). Practice using the Google Translate audio feature as a guide, and start each class by greeting each other in any of these languages you choose. Go around the room and try using all 8 languages!

Bengali – Ei Je

Arabic – Marhaban

English – Hello

Chinese/Mandarin – Ni Hao

Russian – Zdrástvujte or Zdrasti

Spanish – Hola

Portuguese – Bom Dia

Hindi – Namaste

(Do you know how to say hello in another language? French, Italian)

Chocolate as Currency (Money)

Discussion:

Chocolate was such a desirable crop that the Aztecs used cacao beans as currency (money). Besides being delicious, why do you think chocolate was so valuable? Think of the time period, Mexico’s geographical location, and its biodiverse lands. Brainstorm and discuss.

Activity:

Make a list of all US currency, both coins and bills. Order them from least valuable to most valuable. Assign something chocolate to each value. For example, a penny might be a chocolate chip while a \$100 bill (the largest in circulation), could be your favorite chocolate candy bar! Don’t like chocolate? Do the same activity using gummy candy like Swedish fish and Sour Patch Kids! Don’t like sweets? Do the same activity using snacks! Create your own coins and bills using the assigned values of your currency!

Monarch Butterflies

Discussion:

Every November, monarch butterflies fly 2,500 miles from the United States and Canada to Mexico. Michoacán, Mexico is the location of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve where many monarchs spend their winters.

Monarch Butterfly Facts: (Source: World Wildlife Fund)

- A group of monarch butterflies is called a flutter
- Monarchs are toxic to eat due to their diet of milkweed. Their bright orange and black colors warn predators not to stay away.
- Milkweed is the only plant that monarchs lay their eggs on, since it is the only source of food for the baby caterpillars.
- An average adult monarch's wingspan is approximately 4 inches.
- A monarch flaps its wings around 720 times per minute.
- Their scientific name refers to their ability to hibernate and metamorphose or undergo changes (from caterpillar to butterfly).
- Monarchs can travel between 50 and 100 miles each day during their migration period.
- Monarchs weigh less than one ounce, which is about as heavy as a postage stamp or blade of grass.

Activity:

Use a US map to determine the possible routes a monarch butterfly will travel. Count the number of states it will go through beginning in your own state. If it is traveling 2,500 miles and it travels between 500 and 1000 miles per day, how long will it take to get to Mexico?

